

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

March 12, 2014

Mr. Pedro R. Garza
Regional Director
Economic Development Administration
Austin Regional Office
504 Lavaca St., Suite 1100
Austin, TX 78701-2858.

Dear Mr. Garza:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Vidalia, which has submitted an application to the EDA for funding to establish the Vidalia Technology Center (VTC). Concordia Parish is one of the most economically distressed areas of the country, and it my pleasure to strongly support their efforts to diversify their local, rural economy through the VTC.

The City of Vidalia has actively sought resources to address the void in their broadband infrastructure, and the VTC is a critical step in that process. The VTC will provide incubation space for start-up and emerging businesses and provide 21st Century broadband infrastructure to improve connectivity for existing local businesses and industry. The VTC will be the cornerstone for the long term Vidalia Broadband Initiative, and the City of Vidalia envisions this center as a means to increase job creation and economic diversity by fostering an entrepreneurial and innovation climate.

I would appreciate every appropriate consideration, within the applicable guidelines, be given to the City of Vidalia's application. In closing, I now ask for any information you may now provide on this matter and I look forward to hearing from you on the final outcome. If you have any questions please contact Renae Black in my office at renae_black@landrieu.senate.gov.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

MLL:rlb